

**REMARKS****1. Claim objections**

The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Misnumbered claims 14-18 have been renumbered 20-24.

**Response:**

The Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the renumbering of the cited claims. In the listing of claims in this response, renumbered claims 20-24 are so indicated to ensure mutual understanding of the renumbering.

**2. Election/Restriction:**

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Species I, a method for electrically isolating shallow trenches between components; Species II, a method for forming shallow trenches using different photoresist patterns.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, none claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

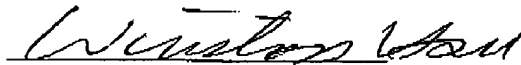
**Response:**

The Applicant has consequently amended the claims in the above  
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS section to elect the Species I. Claims 1-12,  
5 drawn to a method for electrically isolating shallow trenches between components, are  
elected as the subject matter to be examined in the present application. Claims 20-24  
are non-elected and therefore withdrawn. Reconsideration of the elected claims 1-12  
is therefore politely requested.

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Sincerely yours,

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(Please contact me by e-mail if you need a telephone communication and I will return  
your call promptly.)